1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sikkim	0	333	489	149	29	0	0	1000	174
Tamil Nadu	19	327	380	154	93	22	4	1000	28954
Tripura	10	402	535	53	0	0	0	1000	1148
Uttar Pradesh	25	399	289	174	78	34	3	1000	69199
Uttaranchal	3	451	273	212	59	0	0	1000	644
West Bengal	7	582	298	85	24	4	0	1000	34696
Group of UTs	30	516	202	116	97	32	8	1000	372
All-India	13	299	298	189	125	64	12	1000	434242
Estimated no. of households (00)	12594	292867	283610	160600	93504	42581	7748	893504	—
Estimated no. of indebted households (00)	5708	130112	129211	81920	54409	27734	5148	434242	—

Source: NSSO Survey Report No. 498 on "Indebtedness of farmer Households" (May 2005)

Improving yield and productivity

1050. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 600 million individuals are engaged in farming and over 80% of them belong to small and marginal farmer categories;

(b) whether there is any special package for small and marginal farmers to upgrade them from the said category and reduce the category of small and marginal farmers;

(c) whether despite all technological applications and practices; the yield per acre is much less of what can be achieved, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there will be an integrated approach to improve the yield and productivity?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Agriculture provides livelihood to about 650 millions people. Of these, about 79% belong to small and marginal farmer category.

(b) The Government is cognizant of the needs of the farming community including small and marginal farmers. To improve their conditions, a number of measures have been taken. These include easy and timely availability

of institutional credit at low rate of interest, better risk management through crop insurance scheme, encourgement to contract farming, promotion of agricultural diversification towards income enhancing crops and activities suitable to small holdings, better market and storage facilities, sustainable dry-land farming, subsidy and price support measures like payment of Minimum Support Prices to prevent distress sales by the farmers.

(c) and (d) With adoption of modern technologies, there has been many fold increase in the yield of several crops. The yield of wheat, for example, is comparable with the world average, which stood at 2742 kg/hectare as compared to world average at 2725 kg./hectare in 2001. Similarly, yield of sugarcane was much higher at 70617 kg/.hectare in 2001 than the world average of 65204 kg/.hectare. However, in other crops, much more needs to be done. A number of measures have been taken by the Government to rasie the yield in agricultural sector which include subsidies for modern inputs like seeds and fertilizers, integrated pest management, agricultural machinery, drip irrigation system and easy and timely availability of credit at low rate of interest to enable farmers to adopt modern technology for improving the resource use efficiency. The price and market support measures also constitute an important ingredient of the integrated approach to improve the yield and productivity of agriculture sector.

Boosting banana production

1051. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost production of bananas both for domestic consumption and exports;

(b) the current position of the country in banana production and export; and

(c) the details of the strategies proposed to be evolved for boosting production of bananas in variouis regions including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the latest available information during 2003-04, 11,656 Million tones of banana was produced in the country. The export of banana during 2004-05 was 12572 tonnes, valued for Rs. 1294 lakh.

(c) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture